



Volume XVI No I Spring 2001

Vineyard Update

This winter has been kind to the grapes. The winter was long and cold, but without extremes of warm or cold. Spring has sort of arrived. The March flowers are in bloom in April and budbreak in the vineyard is still a week away. I guess about 2 weeks late.

We have agreed to purchase an additional 23 acres next to the winery. This will bring our potential vineyard land to about 34 acres. When planted, this and the Morrison Vineyard should meet the production needs of the winery. We plan to start planting next spring.

Most of you are aware of the drought in the Northwest. This should have little effect on our vineyards since grapes require little water, we have a senior water right, and we have installed a drip system to conserve water.

2001 Calendar of Events

April 27, 28, and 29
Barrel Tasting Weekend
June 16
Rio Bonair Yacht Races
October 13
Mead Faire
November 23, 24, 25
Thanksgiving in Wine Country

RIO BONAIR YACHT CLUB

Bonair Winery happily announces the launching of the Rio Bonair Yacht Club. Commodore Ken invites all our boating fans to become members by sending us a picture of their boat, themselves, and a bottle of Bonair's finest. Non boat owners may become 'charter' members of the yacht club by having their picture taken here with one of our boats. All pictures will go on the RBYC page of bonairwine.com.

RBYC flags and t-shirts will soon be available. Ask about custom labels at member prices. Lac de Bonair open to members ice out ice in.

Membership requirements:

- 1) Be a Bonair fan.
- 2) Own a boat at least 12 inches long.
- 3) Send us a picture of you, your boat, and your favorite Bonair wine.

BONAIR WINERY SUMMER SOLSTICE REGATTA

We invite you all to our Rio Bonair Yacht Club Regatta to be held June 16 on Lake Bonair.

\$10.00 (to pay for dinner) + \$2.00 per class (to pay for awards).

Race classes include: sail, steam, slow electrics, submarines or any other class that has two or more entries. If you can hand launch it, you can race it. No internal combustion engines or boats over 31 feet long. Skippers Meeting at 11:00 am. Racing all day followed by fish and chips, Caesar salad, French bread and BFD margaritas during our awards ceremony.

Please call or email reservations and number of people for dinner by June 10.



Ken practices sailing his 1-meter class yacht on Lac du Bonair

Gail and Shirley Study Spanish Wines and Ports

Gail and Shirley recently returned from a trip to Spain and Portugal where they studied traditional viticulture practice and winemaking. The most interesting note is that the vines are very short in Spain, sometimes less than a foot off the ground. This gives the vine the benefit of radiated heat from the soil at night when temperatures cool. The disadvantage is it also subjects the vine to frost and would be somewhat more difficult to pick. We will be experimenting with some varieties to see if we can take advantage of this ground heating effect in our frost-free areas.

In Portugal, we visited a modern and a traditional Quinta near Regua where Port Wines are grown and vinified. The vineyards are literally terraced up steep hills along the banks of the Douro River. We were able to determine the different grapes and their respective percentages used in Ports. This will be useful as we start our own vineyard planted with Port varieties. As for vinifying port wines, we seem to have a problem with health authorities. The best, only, and traditional way of crushing the grapes is with the feet in large open granite tub called a 'lagar'. After the Ports are vinified, they are transported to Oporto to warehouses for aging.

SUMMER MEANS PICNIC TIME

This spring we are expanding our picnic area to give you more room to relax and enjoy the peace and quiet of the country. Pack and picnic and join us. We are also expanding our offerings of cheeses, meats, and snacks for al fresco dining with a glass or bottle of Bonair wine. Bung the Wonder Dog will entertain you.

BONAIR WEB SITE

A full listing our wines, prices, and pictures of you who have sent us photos of Bonair around the world appear on our web site. Don't forget us for your private label needs. We offer special labels to complement the events in your lifetime- births, weddings, graduations, divorces, anniversaries- as well as logo labels for your company or charity event.

NEW RELEASES

We are pleased to announce two new releases from Bonair Winery:

2000 Riesling – Our first release from the end of the old millennium. This riesling is typical of Bonair Rieslings. Very floral nose with hints of orange blossom and apricot. \$ 6.99

1998 Château Puryear Cabernet Sauvignon, Estate Bottled. This is a big plummy and jammy cabernet with soft tannins; very typical of past vintages. 95 cases produced. \$24.00
